

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018051

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. AT LAST SOME GOOD NEWS ON THE POL/EXT JOB. AVIS BOHLEN IS VERY INTERESTED, AND WE THINK SHE IS THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB. SHE TAKES HER ORAL EXAM FOR INTEGRATION AS AN FSR-4 TOMORROW AFTERNOON AND WILL PASS WITH FLYING COLORS I AM SURE. SHE HAS COMMITTED HERSELF TO STAY WITH THE MBFR DELEGATION UNTIL JUNE, THOUGH OF COURSE SOME SHAKEUP COULD RESULT IN HER LEAVING EARLY. EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T PASS THE EXAM, A TEMPORARY FRS APPOINTMENT SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE. WHAT THINK?

2. REBECCA SCHOMACKER WILL PLAN TO ARRIVE AFTER FEBRUARY 20. SHE DOES NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE PASSPORT BEFORE FEBRUARY 7. WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY DATA FOR VISA SUPPORT WHEN KNOWN. WE WILL, OF COURSE, SUPPORT APPLI-
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CATION WITH SOVEMBASSY.

3. VO TELLS US THE NAME CHECK ON COSTAKIS IS PRODUCING SOME DEROGATORY INFORMATION. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN IT, BUT WILL WORK ON THE PROBLEM AND TRY TO RESOLVE THE MATTER ASAP.

4. NATASHA LELAND CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE

YALE RUSSIAN CHORUS JANUARY 26. SHE SAID THAT ANY TIME ON MARCH 19 OR 20 (SAT. OR SUN.), OR THE EVENING OF MARCH 16, WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE SPASO HOUSE PERFORMANCE. THE CHORUS IS SCHEDULED TO PERFORM BEFORE SOVIET AUDIENCES THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. HOWEVER, MS. LELAND SAID IF NONE OF THE ABOVE DATES WERE CONVENIENT FOR THE AMBASSADOR, THE CHORUS WOULD CANCEL THE PERFORMANCE FOR THE RUSSIAN AUDIENCE ON THE 17TH AND PERFORM AT SPASO HOUSE INSTEAD. SHE ASKED DEPARTMENT TO INQUIRE WHETHER ANY OF THE ALTERNATE DATES WOULD BE CONVENIENT. SHE ALSO SAID SHE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE EMBASSY'S LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND IN CONNECTION WITH ANY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS YOU ALL MAY BE HAVING ON CIVIL DEFENSE. THE FORD ADMINISTRATION BUDGET SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS TWO WEEKS AGO--AS PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON STAR--HAD A LINE ITEM FOR "DEFENSE-CIVIL" SHOWING EXPENDITURES OF 2.1, 2.4, AND 2.6 BILLION FOR 1976, 1977, AND 1978 RESPECTIVELY. THOSE FIGURES ARE FOR "CIVIL" EXPENDITURES WITHIN DOD FOR FUNDING OLD SOLDIERS HOME, CEMENTERIES, CIVIL PROJECTS BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ETC., AND NOT RPT NOT CIVIL DEFENSE PER SE. CIVIL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES SHOWN IN THE BUDGET FOR 1978 COME UNDER "DEFENSE - MILITARY," AND ARE ESTIMATED AT 82.5 AND 90 MILLION FOR FY 1977 AND 1978. THESE REPRESENT THE BUDGET FOR DCPA (DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY).

6. I DISCUSSED THE YESENIN-VOLPIN LIBEL SUIT BRIEFLY WITH KAMENEV JAN 25, AND WE ARE SENDING YOU A COPY OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEM CON. WE NOTED THAT SUITS OF THIS KIND ARE HARD TO WIN, AND THAT THE PURPOSE SERVED IS PROBABLY PUBLICITY HA-

TER THAN HOPE OF SUCCESS. I ADVISED KAMENEV THAT THEY SHOULD CONSULT AN AMERICAN LAWYER, WHICH THEY APPARENTLY HAD NOT YET DONE. VORONTSOV HAS TOLD US THAT PEOPLE BACK THERE ARE NERVOUS AND ARE MUTTERING ABOUT RECIPROCITY, WHICH VORONTSOV THINKS IS UNCALLED FOR AND UNDESIRABLE. WE WILL TRY INFORMALLY TO STEER THEM TO A GOOD LIBEL LAWYER.

7. KIEV: A. AFTER MUCH PRESSURE FROM EUR/EX AND SOV, FBO FINALLY CONVENED INTERAGENCY MEETING TODAY ON SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR STRELETSKAYA. MAJOR ISSUES INVOLVING OTHER AGENCIES RESOLVED, BUT FBO STILL REQUIRES FURTHER REVIEW OF

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OTHER MINUTIAE BEFORE FORMALLY RESPONDING. NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD FRIDAY. WE ARE PUSHING HARD FOR FORMAL RESPONSE

NEXT MONDAY OR TUESDAY. FBO BEING PARTICULARLY INTRASIG-
NANT ON THIS ISSUE DESPITE CONSTANT PRODDING. WE ARE
GOING OVER FBO'S HEAD TO FORCE THEM TO GO ALONG, BUT THEIR
CAPACITY FOR FOOT-DRAGGING IS APALLING.

B. GENERAL CONSENSUS FROM MEETING IS TO DEFER TO SOVIET
PLANS WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES. MAJOR
INTERAGENCY ISSUES RESOLVED SO FAR CONCERNING BUILDING 16
INCLUDE RELOCATION OF STAIRWAY, ELEVATOR AND SUPPORT-
ING COLUMNS. ALSO, DECISION MADE ON RUNNING PIPES THROUGH
FOURTH FLOOR. RELOCATION OF COLUMNS WILL NOT ADVERSELY
AFFECT PLANS FOR VAULT AREAS. USIA NOT PARTICULARLY
HAPPY OVER LOSS OF SPACE WITH RELOCATION OF STAIRWAY AND
ELEVATOR, BUT PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR REQUIREMENTS
IN ORDER TO ACCEPT SOVIET PLANS. THERE MAY BE MINOR RE-
VISIONS OF THEIR AREA FOR BETTER LAYOUT OF USIS SPACE.
RUNNING PIPES THROUGH FOURTH FLOOR AREA ACCEPTABLE AS
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LONG AS THEY ARE RUN THROUGH EXTERIOR MASONRY BEARING WALLS.
OTHER DETAILS AND PROBLEMS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN FULL
REPORT, BUT BY AND LARGE, WE CAN LIVE WITH MOST OF SOVIET
PROPOSALS.

C. LOOKS MORE HOPEFUL NOW THAT KNOOP WILL COME OUT FIRST
PART OF FEBRUARY TO GO OVER PLANS WITH SOVIETS. THIS WILL
BE LAST TRIP EUR/EX WILL APPROVE FOR KNOOP FOR LONG TIME
SO EMBASSY AND KAP SHOULD DO UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT KIEV
AUTHORITIES ARE FULLY PREPARED TO REVIEW PLANS IN DETAIL
AND MAKE DECISIONS.
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